

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05  
/111 W

-----085403 230850Z /10/63

P R 222047Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC 5805  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
USMISSION GENEVA

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT CORRECTED PARA 4.)

USEEC

E.O. 11652 N/A  
TAGS ELAB, AIFLD, ILO, ICFTU, AR  
SUBJECT AFL CIO SOLIDARITY TEAM MEETS WITH ARGENTINE LABOR  
REPRESENTATIVES

REF: A BUENOS AIRES 3922 (NOTAL); B LIMA 4411 (NOTAL);  
C BUENOS AIRES 3847 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. EN ROUTE TO SANTIAGO, AFL-CIO LEADERS HAD  
A CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSION WITH ARGENTINE TRADE UNION  
REPRESENTATIVES -- THE LATEST IN A CONTINUING DIALOGUE  
INSTITUTED BY AFL CIO VICE PRESIDENT CHAIKIN  
LAST YEAR. THE PRINCIPAL TOPIC WAS THE INTERNATIONAL  
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RELATIONS OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT ON THE EVE  
OF THE ILO CONFERENCE. THE ARGENTINES WANT THE AFL  
CIO BACK IN THE ILO AND AFL CIO SUPPORT FOR RETENTION  
OF THE ARGENTINE WORKERS SEAT IN THE GOVERNING BODY.  
AFL-CIO OBJECTIVES VIS A VIS ICFTU, ILO AND OAS  
WERE ALSO DISCUSSED, AS WELL AS CGT-ORIT RELATIONS.  
THIS CABLE SUMMARIZES OUR SENSE OF THE SUBSTANCE OF

CONFIDENTIAL CONVERSATIONS HELD MAY 21 BETWEEN US AND ARGENTINE TRADE UNION LEADERS. THIS MESSAGE HAS NOT YET BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE AFL-CIO PRINCIPALS INVOLVED. AS A COURTESY TO THE SOLIDARITY TEAM, REQUEST EMBASSY SANTIAGO CONSULT AIFLD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DOHERTY WHETHER TEAM WISHES TO MAKE ANY REVISIONS IN THIS REPORT. OUR TELEGRAM 3922 CROSSED WITH LIMAS 4411. IN VIEW OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN PERU, SOLIDARITY TEAM MAY GIVE CONSIDERATION TO VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO VICE LIMA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A FOUR HOUR LAYOVER MAY 21 EN ROUTE TO SANTIAGO (AND POSSIBLY LIMA OR MONTEVIDEO) THE AFL CIO SOLIDARITY TEAM HEADED BY VICE PRESIDENT SOL CHAIKIN (ILGWU) MET WITH MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE "COMMITTEES OF 5 AND 25." CHAIKIN WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FELLOW AFL CIO VICE PRESIDENT TED GLEASON (ILA) AND AIFLDS BILL DOHERTY AND JESSE FRIEDMAN. THE ARGENTINE PRINCIPAL PARTICIPANTS IN THE DISCUSSION WERE ROBERTO BARCIA (TAXI UNION LEADER AND THE NEW ARGENTINE DESIGNEE FOR THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD); ENRIQUE MICO (GARMENT WORKERS UNION); RICARDO PEREZ (TEAMSTERS UNION) AND ANTONIO BALDASSINI (POSTAL UNION).

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3. GARCIA AND MICO BRIEFED THE US VISITORS ON THE COMMITTEE OF 25S SELECTION OF A WORKER DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE ILO CONFERENCE AND THE DELEGATES PLANS TO CONSULT WITH THE VENEZUELAN CTU, THE MEXICAN CTM AND ICFTU HEADQUARTERS IN BRUSSELS EN ROUTE TO GENEVA (REFTEL C). HAVING FOILED A GOVERNMENT BID TO CHOOSE GOA COOPTED UNIONISTS FOR THE ILO DELEGATION, MICO SAID, THE 25 INDEPENDENTLY SELECTED DELEGATES FROM AMONG THEIR OWN NUMBER. IN RETURN FOR THEIR DECISION TO GO TO GENEVA, LABOR MINISTER LIENDO, AT LEAST, APPEARED TO BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT WHEN TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES BECOME NORMALIZED, LEGAL RECOGNITION SHOULD BE GRANTED TO NATIONAL LEVEL FEDERATIONS AS WELL AS UNION LOCALS. IT WAS NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, WHETHER LIENDOS VIEWS REFLECTED THOSE OF THE ARMED FORCES AS A WHOLE, MICO ADDED. (MAY 22 PRESS HINTS THAT LIENDO BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH MAY MAKE A MODEST STATEMENT CONCERNING GOA DESIRE TO WORK TOWARD LIBERALIZATION OF CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON

LABOR MOVEMENT)

4. GARCIA TACTFULLY RAISED ISSUE OF US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO, MAKING CLEAR THAT THE ARGENTINE UNION LEADERS ARE INTERESTED INSEEING THE AFL CIO RETURN. MICO ASKED THAT THE AFL CIO USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE ICFTU AFFILIATES OF FRIENDLY THIRD COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT THE ARGENTINE WORKERS BID TO RETAIN THEIR SEAT ON THE GOVERNING BODY -- A BID WHICH HE SAID THE LABOR MINISTER SUPPORTS. CHAIKIN (COMPLEMENTED BY GLEASON) GAVE A LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS FOR WHICH THE AFL CIO FELT COMPELLED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, STRESSING THAT IT WAS NOT THE AFL-CIO'S LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTENTION TO WEAKEN OR DESTROY THE ILO -- OR THE ICFTU FOR THAT MATTER. CHAIKIN SAID THE AFL CIO RECENTLY HAD REVIEWED THE STATE OF AFL CIO RELATIONS WITH THE ICFTU; IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT IT WAS TOOD EARLY FOR A MOVE TOWARD REAFFILIATION, BUT HOPEFULLY IN A YEAR OR TWO CONDITIONS WOULD BE MORE CONDUCIVE. PEREZ POINTED OUT THAT THE ARGENTINE WORKER DELEGATION TO THE ILO WAS PREPARED TO WORK TOWARD MAKING THE NECESSARY CORRECTIONS IN THE ILO WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE RETURN OF THE AFL CIO AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT IF THE ARGENTINE WORKERS KEPT THEIR SEAT ON THE GOVERNING BODY THEY WOULD BE IN A STRONGER POSITION TO HELP ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.

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P R 222047Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY  
SECSTATE WASHDC 5806  
INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA  
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5. GARCIA ASKED ABOUT CONTINUING RUMORS THAT THE AFL CIO WAS SPONSORING A TRIPARTITE MECHANISM UNDER OAS AUSPICES TO WREST LATIN AMERICAN LABOR CENTRALS AWAY FROM THE ILO. DOHERTY, CONVINCINGLY WE BELIEVE, LAID THIS ONE TO REST, STATING THAT THE OAS INITIATIVE WAS ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM THE ILO QUESTION. THE CNARD HOPEFULLY WOULD BE FORMALLY BURIED AT AN ORIT CONFERENCE IN LIMA IN NOVEMBER. PEREZ, WHO APPEARED ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THIS EXPLANATION, REMARKED THAT A SIMILAR TRIPARTITE MECHANISM EXISTS IN THE OECD STRUCTURE CONCURRENTLY WITH THE ILO AND THERE WAS NO REASON WHY THE SAME THING COULD NOT BE DONE IN THIS HEMISPHERE WITHOUT RISKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ALLEGATIONS OF DIVISIONISM. (BALDASSINI, HOW EVER, WHO WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION, LATER TOLD USE HE WAS STILL INCLINED TO SEE THE OAS PROPOSAL AS A US LABOR MOVEMENT INITIATIVE TO MAINTAIN ITS INFLUENCE IN THE HEMISPHERE FOLLOWING OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ILO).

6. DOHERTY ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR ARGENTINE AFFILIATION TO ORIT. THE ARGENTINES SAID THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE RECENTLY WITH ORIT SECRETARY GENERAL DEL PINO; THEY FELT SPIRITUALLY CLOSE TO ORIT, BUT A FORMAL DECISION COULD BE TAKEN ONLY BY A CGT CONFEDERATED CENTRAL COMMITTEE AFTER THE CGT WAS NORMALIZED. MEAN WHILE, THEY PROPOSED TO CONTINUE ATTENDING ORIT CONFERENCES AS FRATERNAL OBSERVERS, IF INVITED. DOHERTY SAID THE COMMITTEE OF 5 WOULD BE

INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ORIT SPONSORED  
HERMISPHERIC ECONOMIC CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD  
TAKE PLACE IN LIMA JUST PRIOR TO THE INTER  
AMERICAN LABOR MINISTER CONFERENCE IN  
NOVEMBER.

7. THE ARGENTINES ALSO STATED IT WAS THEIR  
CONVICTION THAT HAD IT NOT BEEN OR THE SOLIDARITY  
OF THE AFL CIO AND OTHER DEMOCRATIC INTERNATIONAL  
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, GOA REPRESSION OF THE LABOR  
MOVEMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE.  
COMMENT: THE ARGENTINE LABOR LEADERS EXPRESSED  
DESIRE TO SEE THE US RETURN TO THE ILO AND TO RETAIN  
THEIR SEAT IN THE GOVERNING BODY COINCIDES WITH THE  
VIEWS OF THE ARGENTINE LABOR MINISTER AS WELL AS THOSE  
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OF THE NAVY COMMAND (WHICH OFTEN TAKES POLITICAL  
POSITIONS CONTRARY TO THE VIDELA VIOLA LIENDO GROUP  
IN THE ARMY). THE MINISTER, WHO IS CONCERNED THAT  
US WITHDRAWAL WILL LEAD TO SOVIET DOMINATION OF THE  
ILO, REPORTEDLY HAS INITIATED AN INITIATIVE AMONG  
G-77 COUNTRIES AIMED AT EASING THE WAY FOR  
US RE ENTRY.  
CASTRO

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## Message Attributes

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